

Application Serial No.: 10/617,403  
Amdt. dated December 30, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of October 3, 2005

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The Office Action dated October 12, 2005 and the reference cited therein have been carefully considered. In response to the Office Action, Applicants have canceled Claims 1 and 2, amended Claims 3, 5-8 and 19-28 and added new Claim 29 which, when considered with the remarks set forth below, are deemed to place the case in condition for allowance. As a result of the present Amendment, Claims 3-29 remain in the case for continued prosecution.

In the Office Action, Claims 3-18, 20-24 and 26-28 have been deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1, 2, 19 and 25, however, have been rejected based on prior art.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In response, Applicants have canceled rejected Claims 1 and 2 and have amended rejected Claims 19 and 25 to depend from allowable Claim 5. Applicants have also rewritten allowable Claims 3, 5, 7, 8, 20, 21, 24 and 26-28 in independent form. Claim 6 has been amended to depend from allowable Claim 5 and Claims 22 and 23 have been amended to depend from allowable Claim 21. New Claim 29 contains the limitations of rejected Claim 2, but is made to depend from allowable Claim 5. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 3-29 now stand in condition for allowance.

Application Serial No.: 10/617,403  
Amdt. dated December 30, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of October 3, 2005

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, favorable consideration and allowance of the application with Claims 3-29 are respectfully solicited. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would assist in moving the application toward allowance, he is respectfully invited to contact the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



---

Steven T. Zuschlag  
Registration No.: 43,309  
Attorney for Applicant

HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP  
6900 Jericho Turnpike  
Syosset, New York 11791  
(516) 822-3550  
STZ/dlb

215068\_1